

25 February 1962

Dear Boris

For many days I have had on my agenda the matter of answering a letter from you dated 2 December 1961 and I have just not been able to do so, for various reasons, but now comes your fine letter of 22 February written from Menton and courtesy if nothing more demands that I reply at once.

My long-drawn-out silence has not been because of physical illness — I've been pretty well in that regard — but rather because of a malaise and a feeling of anguish about the sad way in which Barbara's problems have turned out to bring sorrow and anxiety to all of us. And the end is not yet clear, except that the affair of her marriage has turned out badly, for reasons beyond the scope of this letter and must await a personal visit to explain.

This brings me to the question of how to answer your present letter, which must begin for me to tell you how much we appreciate the most courteous invitation you have extended us to participate in the celebration of your 70th birthday on July 2. At this moment I am not able to give an affirmative reply with a joyful anticipation — a definite and unequivocal acceptance. All I can say right now is that we want very much to join your family in observing that milestone anniversary and we shall do so if the local conditions

Settle down a bit more if they are such as to
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relieve us of present anxieties, and Barbara's
problems are solved in a manner which will
make it possible for us to be away for any
length of time more than a very few days.

We imagine that you plan to have
the birthday dinner at Sundsvik. Since it is
to be on July 2 and since you are usually in
Sweden by that time - not to mention that most
of your family is usually there rather than in
England during the summer. Is this correct?

Within a couple of weeks we should
know better just how matters are and should
be able to give you a firm acceptance to your
wonderful invitation but at the moment let us
consider this as a tentative acceptance, to be
confirmed just as soon as possible. Both Elize-
beth and I have had a very difficult time
going through months and months of great
anxiety - a rest and a change of environment
is really necessary. I shall write you soon again

We are glad to note that both Anne
and you are well - except for minor winter ail-
ments - and hope you enjoyed your Merton visit
very much.

I have been working quite diligently
even though under conditions of great stress. At
the moment I am working on a paper I am
to deliver in April before the American Philosophical
Society. Title is "Shakespeare, Secret Intelligence
and Statecraft." It involves a good deal of
difficulty in research and writing. Elizabeth
is helping me but I'm told my address will
be of importance in Shakespearean scholarship.
It will be printed later. I also have several
other projects in the mill. Have seen Bo a
couple of times & with Edith once. Nice visits.

Thanking you again and with
most affectionate regards, Sincerely,

Boe